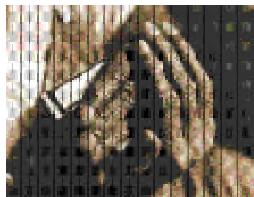


The American Center Film Program

March - April 2004





The Blues, executive produced by legendary Hollywood film director Martin Scorsese, consists of seven feature-length films that capture the essence of the blues while exploring how this art form so deeply influenced music and people the world over.

The series begins with the journey from Africa to the Mississippi Delta in America – where the music grew from the slaves' field hollers, work songs and spirituals – then travels up the Mississippi River to the juke joints, house parties and recording studios of Memphis and Chicago, and culminates with the emotional embrace of this African-American creation by musicians and people throughout the world. This film series raises awareness of the blues and its contribution to American culture and music worldwide.

The seven-part film series includes:

Feel Like Going Home by Martin Scorsese

The Soul of a Man by Wim Wenders

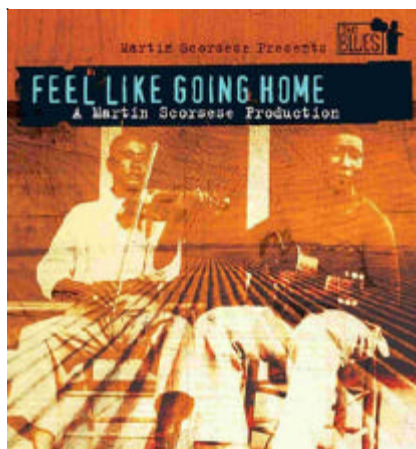
The Road to Memphis by Richard Pearce

Warming by the Devil's Fire by Charles Burnett

Godfathers and Sons by Marc Levin

Red, White & Blues by Mike Figgis

Piano Blues by Clint Eastwood



Feel Like Going Home

Directed by Martin Scorsese

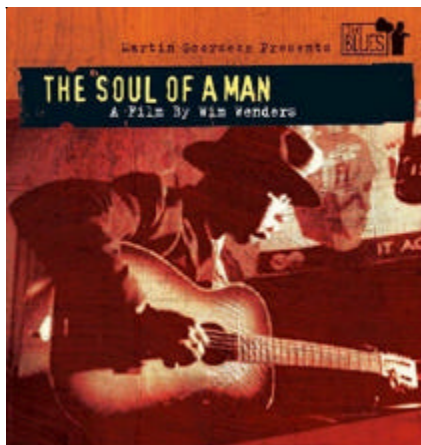
Written by Peter Guralnick

Running Time: 79 min.

March 24, 25 and 26 1:00 p.m.

Director Martin Scorsese pays homage to the Delta Blues. Musician Corey Harris travels through Mississippi and on to West Africa, exploring the roots of the music. The film celebrates the early Delta bluesmen through original performances (including Willie King,

Taj Mahal, Otha Turner and Ali Farka Toure) and rare archival footage (featuring Son House, Muddy Waters, and John Lee Hooker).



The Soul of a Man

Written and directed by
Wim Wenders

Running Time: 1 hr. 40 min

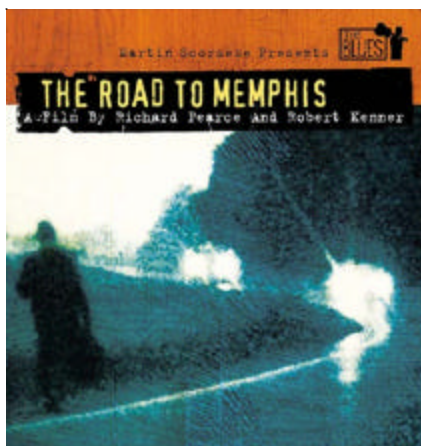
March 30 and 31 1:00 p.m.

April 3 9:00 a.m.

Director Wim Wenders explores the lives of his favorite blues artists – Skip James, Blind Willie Johnson, and J.B. Lenoir – in a film that is part history and part personal pilgrimage.

The film tells the story of these artists' lives in music through a fictional film-within-a film, rare archival footage, and covers of their songs by contemporary musicians, including Bonnie Raitt, Lucinda Williams, Lou Reed, Eagle Eye Cherry, Cassandra Wilson, Garland Jefferys, Los Lobos, and others.

Cast: Skip James, Keith B. Brown, Blind Willie Johnson, Chris Thomas King



The Road to Memphis

Directed by Richard Pearce
Written by Robert Gordon
Running Time: 1 hr. 29 min.

April 1 and 2 1:00 p.m.

April 3 10:50 a.m.

Director Richard Pearce traces the musical odyssey of blues legend B.B. King in a film that pays tribute to the city that gave birth to a new style of blues. Pearce's homage to Memphis features original performances by

B.B. King, Booby Rush, Rosco Gordon and Ike Turner, as well as historical footage of Howlin' Wolf and Rufus Thomas.



Warming by the Devils Fire

Written and directed by
Charles Burnett

Running time: 1 hr. 30 min.

April 6 and 7

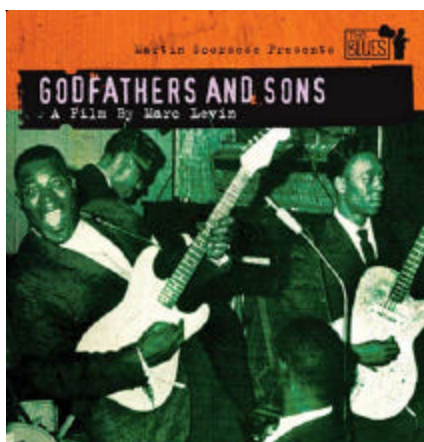
1:00 p.m.

April 10

9:00 a.m.

Director Burnett presents a tale about a young boy's encounter with his family in Mississippi in the 1950s, and intergenerational tensions

between the heavenly strains of gospel songs and the devilish moans of the blues.



Godfathers and Sons

Directed by Marc Levin

Running time: 1 hr. 36 min.

April 8 and 9

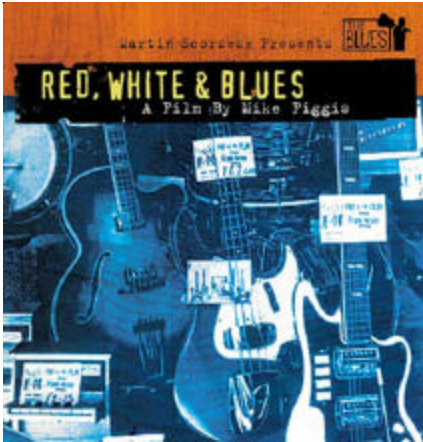
1:00 p.m.

April 10

10:40 a.m.

Director Marc Levin travels to Chicago with hip-hop legend Chuck D (of Public Enemy) and Marshall Chess (son of Leonard Chess and heir to the Chess Records legacy) to explore the heyday of Chicago blues as they unite to produce an album that

seek to bring veteran blues players together with contemporary hip hop musicians. Along with never-before-seen archival footage of Howling Wolf, Muddy Waters and the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, are original performances by KoKo Taylor, Otis Rush, Magic Slim, Ike Turner, and Sam Lay.



Red, White and Blue

Directed by Mike Figgis

Running time: 1 hr. 33 min.

April 20 and 21

1:00 p.m.

April 24

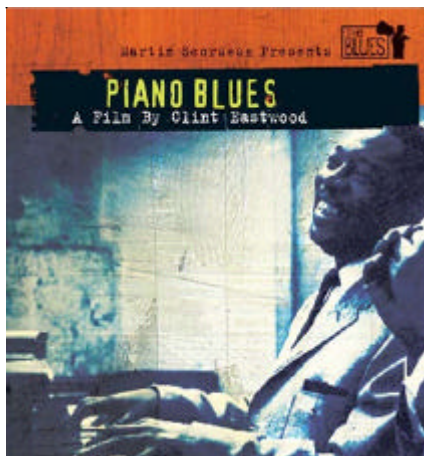
9:00 a.m.

Director Mike Figgis joins musicians such as Van Morrison, Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, and Tom Jones, performing and talking about the music of the early sixties British invasion that reintroduced the blues sound to America.

During the 1960s, the UK was the location for a vibrant social revolution. London, Liverpool, Birmingham and Newcastle all had their own music scenes. Musicians from Belfast and Glasgow moved to London to be part of the club scene there.

The post-war traditional jazz and folk revival movements produced the fertile ground for a new kind of blues music – entirely influenced by the authentic black blues of the USA, and, for the most part, entirely ignored by the good citizens of the US. It was new in the sense that certain key musicians took the blues and molded it in an entirely personal way to fit the new awareness of the UK in the sixties. Importantly, for the most part they continued to pay homage to the originators of the music and make a huge global audience aware of the likes of Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Freddie King, etc.

Mike Figgis' film examines the circumstances of this vibrant period. Figgis himself participated, albeit in a minor way, in this period of history, playing in a blues band with Bryan Ferry, a band that was the nucleus for the first Roxy Music.



Piano Blues

Directed by Clint Eastwood

Running time: 1 hr. 32 min.

April 22 and 23

1:00 p.m.

April 24

10:40 a.m.

Director, actor – and piano player - Clint Eastwood explores his life-long passion for piano blues, using a treasure trove of rare historical footage in addition to interviews and performances by such living legends as Pinetop Perkins and Jay McShann,

as well as Dave Brubeck and Marcia Ball.

